DEVONSHIRE HOUSE

To the Generall Councill of OFFICERS *of the* ENGLISH ARMY: *And to every Member in particular.*

Friends,

I Am moved of the Lord to write unto you in the name and power of our Lord Jesus Christ; and in tender love and dear bowels of affection to you all, and to that measure of God in you all, I desire to be made manifest and known; and I can truely say, my love is dear to that, and I know that my Heavenly Father hath brought you now unto the place of Judicature, that you may do Justice, where many before you have bin turned and overturned, and that shortly and suddenly of late years; and now are you come into their place, to be *tryed and weighed in the Ballance of true Justice and Judgement*. And oh that your Eyes were open to see what the most high is doing in this his Day of Power, in this his Day of Grace, that so you may not be blinded, as others before you have been who would not see the Lords hand, but acted as men corrupt, and so came to be thrown down, by the power which they would not see. You have bin the Instruments of war, and the battle-axe in the hand of the Lord, which hath even beaten the mountains to dust. And now are you come into their place which they were in, with whom you warred: and now are you come into the place, where you may execute that, which you formerly desired after and suffered for, and laboured for, and warred for. And now that the Lord hath put it into your hands, even to try your faithfulness, and your integrity, not that he hath any need of you, more then of them that went before you, (as you are men naturall) but as you are righteous men, and guided by the just

and righteous principle in you; so you may be serviceable unto the Lord for the accomplishing, and for the performing of the intents of his heart, which he hath determined and decreed to bring to passe in these latter dayes, against which, *no weapon formed shall prosper, nor no Power nor Arme can withstand, for the Almighty will shew forth his righteousnesse as the morning and his glory as the noon-day.* Therefore as you love your soules, and your eternall peace; and as you desire to be preserved by him, and kept, and upholden by the right hand of his power; beware that you turn not your hand against his work, that he is working in the Earth in this his day.

The powers of darkness have long kept him out of his Throne, and he hath holden his peace, and long bin still; but now is he crying, *as a travelling woman*; and now will he arise, and destroy at once all those, *that will not he should Reigne, whose right it is; who is the wonderfull Councellor, the Prince of Peace, of whose Dominion and Government there shall be no end.* And as you desire *that he should Govern, and Rule all Nations with his Rod of Iron; now gnit your selves like men:* and that liberty for which you have ventured your blood and lives, let it not now fall in the Streets of great *Babylon*, when it is put into your hands freely to Minister unto the Nations; and let Christ Jesus (who is the supreame Iudge in the Conscience) have his Throne established, which is for ever and ever. And let the everlasting Gospel of our Lord Iesus Christ, have its free passage, which no man need be ashamed of: *For it is the power of God unto salvation.*

And *(dear Friends)* as you desire to be owned of the living God, and to be preserved and upholden by his power and strength, come into seriousness and sincerity, and let the just measure of God in you all, leade you and guide you; *and let his fear possesse your hearts.* For you have seen what hath become of those that were before you: and truely, Gods just hand was seen which would come upon them before it came. And now that you may escape the scourge that hath overturned them, is the desire of my soule; and that as God hath honoured you, and made you Instruments for his service; so now that you might be guided with that, which may stand in his presence. *For the Lord giveth wisedom; out of his mouth commeth knowledge, and understanding: He layeth up sound wisedom for the righteous; he is a Buckler to them that walke uprightly; He keepeth the paths of judge-*

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ment, and preserveth the way of his saints that they understand righteousnesse, judgement, and equity; yea every good path.

And truely Friends, it is the uprightnesse of your hearts, that the Lord looketh at, and that will onely be accepted of him: and it hath bin the rotten deceitfulnesse of the hearts of those that went before you, that was their overthrow: And so, just as the intents of your hearts are for the advancing and *exalting of the horne of his Anoynted*, so will you prosper in this work: *For the Decree of the Lord concerning this thing is sealed, which shall never be revoked. Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and his holy One; to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the Nations abhorreth, a servant of Rulers, Kings shall see, and arise, Princes also shall worship, because of the Lord that is faithfull and the holy one of Israel, this is he that must rule the Nations, whose Scepter is a righteous Scepter and blessed will you be, if you advance and exalt him, whom God is exalting in this his day: the spirit of the Lord doth rest upon him, the spirit of wisedom and understanding, the spirit of counsell and of might, the spirit of knowledge and the feare of the Lord: with righteousnesse shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the Earth and he shall smite the Earth with the Rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips will he slay the wicked; and righteousnesse is the girdle of his loynes, and faithfulnesse the girdle of his reines. And this is he (Friends) that is springing out of the Stem of Jesse, and woe is to them that war against him: This is the righteous Branch that the Lord is bringing forth, the King that shall reigne, and prosper, whose Name is, the Lord our Righteousnesse. (to whom all Nations shall bow) which is better than every Name, and every tongue confesse him to be Lord: And as ye advance and exalt him, he will be pleased, and so will he be performed in the midst of your Enemies.*

And though we be but little and small in your Eyes, (a poore despised, and every where spoken against) yet it will be good for you, if you have our Prayers, for we know the Rocke, and the Corner Stone, and the tryed which will stand in his sight: and we have the Testimony that will stand for ever: And no other foundation can any one lay, then that which is already layd; but let every one take heed, how he buildeth thereupon! for every ones work must be tryed by the fire, and he whose work is burnt will

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ſuffer loſſe; for the day is riſen, and appearing, that makes every thing manifeſt, of what ſort it is. And truely Friends, it muſt be a ſpiritual building that will ſtand in the preſence of the Almighty God. It is not the potſhards of the Earth, that can ſtrive with him; nor Bryars and Thornes, that can ſtand before him in Battle, (who is a conſuming fire,) nor an Image made, (though of Gold) and ſet up in the imaginations of men, that will ſtand in his ſight; it is the true and living ſubſtance that will be accepted of him. Therefore (dear hearts) conſider what the Lord is a doing, and act not without his Councell, nor to pleaſe men, leſt you act contrary to his will; advance juſtice, Righteouſneſſe and Equity, and you can never doe amiſſe.

Riches and Honour is with me, ſaith *Solomon*; yea durable Riches and Righteouſneſſe. I leade in the way of Righteouſneſſe, in the midſt of the path of judgement; this is the Saints path though fooles cannot erre herein. Here you will ſee and know the Key of *David*, of Wiſedom and Knowledge, which will open unto you the way of life. Truely I am *affected* with you, and I know, if you execute juſtice and true judgement, the Lord will own you, and give you to tread on the necks of your Enemies; but if you fall flat, and grow cold, and dead, and dull, and betray your own Principles (as ſome have done that went before you) then look for the ſame, as they have had from an unchangeable God, who is the ſame to day, yeſterday, and for ever. And you that have ventred lives and bloud for Conſcience, Freedom and Liberty; now beware that you be not ſi nitters of, nor Lorders over Gods Heritage, nor to keep him out of his Throne, as your Predeceſſors have done, your fruits will make you manifeſt, and as you ſow, ſo will you reape.

It is not for any end concerning us, that I Write this unto you, the Living Record knows; for we know the ſtrait and narrow path, and we have troden the path that leads through ſufferings; tryals, and afflictions have been our Portion, as our Lord and Maſter that went before us, who was made perfect through ſufferings. And therefore it is our joy, to follow his ſteps, where ever he goes, and it is onely for your good, and that you might be guided to, as you might proſper. For it is the grief of our ſoules to ſee

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the deſtruction of any. And therefore in tender bowels, have we been moved to give them many Warnings and Exhortations, whoſe day was before you, which they have caſt behind their backs; but for the Lord, they will ſtand a witneſſe; when the day of their calamity comes, then will they remember what they have done againſt the Lord, and againſt his Anoynted, and ſo, that you may be preſerved out of the Gulfe of Deſtruction, and that you may partake with us of everlaſting peace and reſt, and ſafety, and joy which is for evermore, have a wait this, who wills not the death of any, nor the hurt of any; but the good of all: and thoſe that wiſheth well to *Sion*, will proſper; for ſhe is now ariſing, and ſhaking off the duſt of her feet, and putting on her beautifull garments; and the Mountain of the Lords Houſe, is eſtabliſhed upon the top of the Mountains, and ſhall be exalted above the Hills, and all Nations ſhall flow unto it. For out of *Sion* is going forth the Law, and the Word of the Lord from *Jeruſalem*: And who can ſtop, or who can ſtay this, which God alone worketh and Iudgeth among the Nations. And ſo we wait to ſee Iuſtice and true Iudgement executed by you, not for men, but for the Lord. *For the Law is added, becauſe of tranſgreſſion*: And ſo, when true Iuſtice, and true Iudgement Rules, then the Law is executed upon the tranſgreſſors: But who is led by the ſpirit of God, againſt ſuch there is no Law; and ſo to the Iuſt and Righteous Principle of God in you, I commit you to be guided; and then, I know, if you mind it, you will not be time-ſervers, nor men-pleaſers, nor fear man, whoſe Breath is in his Noſtrills; but fear the Lord God, who when he hath killed the Body, can alſo caſt the ſoule into Hell: Yea, I ſay unto you, fear him; ſo will you come to know the juſt Principle in every one, which will knit and unite your hearts together in the unity, and there will be your ſtrength in the one ſpirit which joynes to the Lord, and one to another.

This is the Standard, that ſtands againſt all Powers of Hell, and Death. And truely Friends, it is this which keeps out of reſpect of perſons, and out of time-ſerving and men-pleaſing, that will knit your Hearts together, and this will keep you out of ſtrife and contention one with another, when the juſt Princi-

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ple in all guides and leads; then will righteousneſſe be exalted, and here will be your very ſtrength, that you be knit one to another by that juſt and righteous meaſure of the ſpirit of God in you, ſo that you may not be Iudges, nor Governours for men, but for the Lord, and for the advancing of his truth, and the exalting of his Chriſt, which in this his day he is going to eſtabliſh upon his Throne, notwithſtanding all gain-ſayers; though *Gog* and *Magog* ſhould gather together; yet the Lord hath Anoynted his holy One; and his King he hath ſet upon his holy Hill of *Sion*: and all that gather together againſt him ſhall fall for his ſake. Therefore in pure love unto you, (that you may not be found fighters againſt God) am I moved to give you this warning, and this Counſell, which you ſhall acknowledge to be good one day, (whether you now hear or forbear) and that you may not bear the Sword in vain. Hitherto you have not borne the Sword in vain, but the Lord hath made you Victorious, and given you power over your Enemies, and put into your hands what your hearts could deſire.

And now oh that you would come to execute Juſtice and true Judgement, it would even be your preſervation and your ſtrength, and that you may be the Rulers that are not a terrour to good works, but to evill, that the good may not be afraid of your Power, but the evill; and that you may be the Miniſters of God for good, and a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doth evill: and that your Acts and Ordinances may be for the Lords ſake, that the people of God may ſubmit unto them, and be ſubject unto you, not for wrath, but for Conſcience ſake; forasmuch as you are ſet and ſent of the Lord, for the puniſhment of the evill doer, and for the praiſe of them that doe well: for ſo is the will of God, *That with well doing, you may put to ſilence the ignorance of the fooliſh.* And ſo this is your place and calling, and now the power, and the opportunity, is put into your hands to doe good; beware that you doe not abuſe the power, nor make light of it, nor ſlight it, nor turn the truth of God into a lye, (as thoſe have done, that have gone before you) nor turn not the Sword againſt the juſt and the righteous, as they have done, and cauſed the juſt and innocent to ſuffer, (which

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God hath pleaded the cause of) though they were blind, and did not see, nor would not heare the Warning, and the Exhortation that was ministred unto them; yet God hath said, *they shall see, and be ashamed.* And God will pleade the cause of his own just and innocent Seed that hath no helper in the Earth, which hath long suffered under the hard Bondage of *Egyptian* darkness; but he hath seen the affliction of his Seed, and he hath heard the cry of it, and he is come to releive it: So if ever you would have the powerfull God to own you, and honour you, Beware of strengthening the hands of the wicked, and of the evill doers, and of turning your Sword against the innocent. He is the same, and he liveth for ever, that said; *It were better that a Millstone were hanged about his necke, and he cast into the Sea, then to offend one of his little ones.* This Word endureth for ever, and will be fulfilled every jot and tittle, though men make light of it, and doe not see the weight, nor the depth of it; but when their day of calamity comes, then will they see what is due unto that, which hath offended this, which God so highly prizeth

Therefore as you love your soules, and your Eternall Peace, beware what you doe, now you are in Place of Authority, and now you have Power to *act* for God: If you keep your hearts upright to him, he will direct you; If your Faces be towards *Sion*, he will teach you of his wayes, that you may walk in his Paths, which will be out of the path of the broad way, that leads to destruction, which all that went before you have walked in; and that you may be preserved out of the Snare of the Fowler (which the wicked one layes for those that are in place of Authority, as you are in) is even the desire of my Soule; and if your hearts be not corrupt, ye will be preserved; *For out of the Heart proceeds evill thoughts, murthers, and adulteries: theefs, false witnessing, and blasphemies, these are the things which defiles the man; that which commeth out of the man, defiles the man, not that which enters into him.* Reade that near, and consider it seriously, for there is great weight in these words, so keep to the Just Principle of God in you, that which keeps you clean, out of advantages, out of time-serving,

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and men pleasing; so may you escape the pollutions that they fell into that went before you: And the God of all Power, give you to see, and understand, that his Righteousnesse he will exalt in this his day. And oh that you could beleeve in your Hearts, and confesse with your Mouthes, that Jesus Christ is raysed from the dead, then should you be saved from the transgressing against the Just, for with the Heart man beleeveth unto righteousnesse, and with the Mouth confession is made unto salvation. Whosoever beleeveth that Jesus is the Christ, is born of God; and every one that loveth him that begatt, loveth him that is begotten of him; (marke this, and Reade it neat) So if you love God which hath begott, love that which is begotten of him in you; and this will keep you out of transgression, out of persecution, and out of the sin and evill; and teach you to be a terrour to the evill doers, and not a terrour to the good, but a prayse to them that doe well. And to this Word, and Power, Eternall, and Immortall, I Commit, and Commend you, which is able to save your Soules, *1 Timothy* 6. 15. 16. *ver.* which in his time, he shall shew who is the blessed, and onely Potentate, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, who onely hath Immortality dwelling in the Light, which no man can approach unto, whom no man hath seen, nor can see: To whom be Honour, and Power Everlasting, Amen.

Swarthmore the 31. of the 8th. Moneth 1659.

From a true Lover of true Peace, and Righteousnesse which is comming to Rule; for the Lord hath taken unto him his great Power; and therefore the Nations are angry.

Margeret Fell.

FINIS.

Margeret Fell, Finis. 16[illegible]